

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE NINTH MEETING

INTER-AMERICAN TROPICAL TUNA COMMISSION

San José, Costa Rica

12 March 1957

Minutes of the Open Session

The ninth meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, being the regular annual meeting for 1957, convened in the Salón Dorado of the Casa Amareilla in San José, Costa Rica, commencing at 10:30 a.m. 12 March 1957.

In representation of the Government of Costa Rica there were present: In representation of the National Assembly, the Commissions of Foreign Relations and of Commerce and Industries; Sr. Alvar Antillón, Chief of the Department of International Organizations, and Lic. Don José Luis Cardona-Cooper, representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ingeniero Don Manuel María San Román, representing the Minister of Agriculture and Industries.

Representatives of the Member Governments of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission were as follows:

For Costa Rica:

Sr. Lic. Don José Luis Cardona-Cooper
Sr. Lic. Don Virgilio Aguiluz Orellana

For Panama:

Sr. Don Miguel A. Corro, Secretary of the Commission
Sr. Diputado Don Sergio Crespo

For the United States:

The Honorable Lee F. Payne, acting Chairman of the Commission

Dr. M. B. Schaefer, Director of Investigations and two members of the scientific staff were in attendance.

The following special observers were present from other governments:

Chile - His Excellency, Sr. Don Augusto Millán Iriarte, Ambassador
Ecuador - His Excellency, Sr. Don Abel Romeo Castillo, Ambassador
Colombia - His Excellency, Sr. Don José Joaquín Gori, Ambassador
Guatemala - His Excellency, Sr. Coronel Don Víctor M. León, Ambassador
El Salvador - His Excellency, Sr. Don Roberto Castillo, Ambassador, and
Sr. Don Jesús Adalberto Ortiz, Commercial Attaché.
Peru - Sr. Encargado de Negocios Don Raúl Gutiérrez
Mexico - Sr. Don Ignacio D. Silva, Secretary of Embassy

Honduras - Sr. Lic. Don Guillermo Letva Bueso, Secretary of Embassy
Nicaragua - Sr. Don Victor Manuel Urroz Manfut, Special Envoy from
Ministry of Economy
Italy - Professor Don Doménico Vitola, Attaché of Embassy

Also present were members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Advisory Committee to the Costa Rican Section of the Commission, and others.

On behalf of the Ministers of Foreign Relations and of Commerce and Industries, welcoming speeches were made by Sr. Lic. José Luis Cardona-Cooper and by Sr. Ingeniero Manuel María San Román. Sr. Diputado Sergio Crespo responded with an address on behalf of Panama, and Mr. Lee F. Payne responded on behalf of the United States.

Following this, Sr. Lic. José L. Cardona-Cooper declared the inaugural session completed, whereupon the members of the Diplomatic Corps and others not wishing to attend the business session left the room.

The business session convened under the Chairmanship of Mr. Lee F. Payne at 11:00 a.m.

The tentative agenda which had been prepared for the meeting was unanimously approved and adopted. Thereafter were taken up the several points on the Agenda:

Approval for publication of the Annual Report for 1956

Copies of the draft of the Annual Report for the year 1956 had been sent to all Commissioners for review and comment prior to the meeting. No changes had been suggested, and no further modifications were proposed.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed that: The Annual Report for the year 1956, as drafted by the Director of Investigations, be approved for publication.

Program of Investigations for fiscal year 1957-1958

The Commission's budget for this fiscal year, in the full amount recommended to the member governments, is expected to be appropriated. It appeared, therefore, possible to undertake the full program of investigations, recommended by the Commission at the last meeting. The Director of Investigations had prepared and circulated a detailed outline of the proposed investigations as follows:

- I. Collection, compilation and analysis of catch statistics, logbook data, and related information for the tunas and baitfishes.
 - a. ~~Continue routine collection and compilation of current data.~~
 - b. Continue analysis to study changes in abundance and yield in space and time.
 - c. Further studies to improve indices of abundance and fishing effort.

- d. ~~Studies of the dynamics of component populations as defined by ancillary biological data.~~
 - e. Further development and application of theoretical models for the study of fishery dynamics based on catch statistics.
2. Investigations of life history, biology, and population structure of the tunas.
- a. Continue market measurement program at San Diego, San Pedro and northern Peru.
 - b. Completion of preliminary determinations of age and growth from modes in size frequencies.
 - c. Commence studies of changes in abundance of age groups in space and time by the combination of data in size frequencies and catch-per-unit-of-fishing-effort.
 - d. Morphometric studies.
 - 1) Skipjack - completion of analysis of data on skipjack already at hand. Collection of further data to depend on results of these studies.
 - 2) Yellowfin - continue collection of data and preliminary analysis.
 - e. Studies of tuna maturation, spawning, and early life history.
 - 1) Continue sampling of gonads from landings at San Pedro and Mancora, Peru.
 - 2) Studies of collections of juveniles collected incidental to tagging, oceanographic and other cruises.
 - 3) Studies of distribution of planctonic larvae from:
 - "Eastropic" Expedition
 - "Scope" Expedition
 - Island study project (summer of 1957)
 - Revilla Gigedo special cruise (summer of 1957)
 - f. Studies of schooling habits of tunas.
 - 1) Analysis of current purse-seiner logbook data to supplement previous studies already published.
 - 2) Continued collection and analysis of data, gathered by scientists aboard clippers, respecting aggregation by size and species.
 - g. Studies of feeding habits by examination of stomach contents of tunas collected at sea from commercial vessels and research vessels incidental to other operations.

3. Tuna tagging.

- a. Further development of improved tags and tagging techniques.
- b. Conduct of full scale tagging operations, aboard vessels based at California ports, throughout the year.
- c. Tagging throughout the year from local vessels based at Paita and Mancora, Peru.

4. Oceanography and tuna ecology.

- a. Continuing analysis of existing oceanographic and meteorological data for:
 - 1) General description of the currents and water masses.
 - 2) Correlation of seasonal and annual variations in meteorological and oceanographic features.
- b. Continuation of analyses of physical and biological data from "Eastropic" and "Scope" expeditions.
- c. Preparation of charts showing for different seasons the depth to the thermocline, based on all existing bathythermograms from the Eastern Pacific.
- d. Studies of the use of indicator organisms from the zooplankton to identify water masses.
- e. Analysis of data obtained on the special cruise in May-June 1957 to study effects of islands on vertical circulation and associated chemical and biological factors.
- f. Continued attempts to obtain useful oceanographic data from commercial vessels.
- g. Establishment, in cooperation with Scripps Institution, of tide and temperature recording equipment on outlying islands (especially Galapagos, Revilla Gigedo and Clipperton). In cooperation with Scripps Institution, development of fixed and/or free-floating buoys for obtaining time series of oceanographic data in critical localities.
- h. Participation in cruises in our areas of study which are a part of the program of the International Geophysical Year.

5. Research on bait-fishes.

- a. Continued studies in the Gulf of Nicoya to evaluate transplantation experiment, and to study life history and ecology of anchovetas and other clupeoids.
- b. Continue studies in the Gulf of Panama and adjacent areas off the Colombian coast of the life history, biology, and ecology of the anchoveta stocks of that region.

- c. ~~Collection of materials on field-trips to other areas to supplement collections made for us by the tuna fleet.~~
- d. Continuation at headquarters and regional laboratories of studies of larval and juvenile stages of anchovetas and related species; racial characteristics of anchoveta populations; age, growth, longevity, and reproduction of anchovetas from all major baiting areas. Completion and publication of reports on the results of these studies.

This proposed program was discussed, after which it was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: The proposed program of investigations, prepared and recommended by the Director of Investigations for the fiscal year 1957-58 be approved and adopted.

Research program and budget for fiscal year 1958-1959

The Director of Investigations had transmitted to the Commissioners and Advisors, on 17 January 1957, detailed recommendations for the research program for the fiscal year commencing 1 July 1958, together with estimates of funds required, amounting to \$352,725.

This program is a continuation of the program during the previous fiscal year, with some changes of emphasis on the several lines of investigation. The level of expenditures is the same as the previous year.

The Commissioners discussed the proposed program, and the proposed budget, especially with respect to certain changes of emphasis in the research. It was ascertained that each of the Member Governments is satisfied with the program and agreeable to the budget proposed.

It was noted that the estimate of \$352,725 does not include funds for the retirement plan for staff members, which was an item on the agenda to be considered subsequently. An additional amount of \$10,000 would be required for the cost of the retirement plan, if approved.

It was then moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: The Commission approves the general program of investigations for the fiscal year 1958-1959, prepared by the Director of Investigations and previously transmitted to the Commissioners; to conduct these investigations a budget is recommended for the period 1 July 1959 through 30 June 1959 in the amount of \$352,725.

Proportion of Contributions of Member Governments for fiscal year 1958-1959.

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Schaefer presented statistics of the utilization during 1956 of tropical tunas (as defined by the resolution of the 1953 annual meeting) by the three member governments:

United States of America	-	319,371,000 pounds
Costa Rica	-	1,069,000 pounds
Panama	-	zero

Therefore, in accordance with the formula adopted by the Commission at its 1953 meeting, the contributions of the three governments to the joint expenses should be:

United States of America - 99.7%
Costa Rica - 0.3%
Panama - minimum contribution of \$500

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: Contributions to the joint expenses of the Commission for fiscal year 1958-1959 shall be in the following proportions: United States of America 99.7%; Costa Rica 0.3%; Panama - minimum contribution of \$500.

At this juncture, the observer from Colombia noted the desire of his government to adhere to the Convention, and to thus broaden the base of the research. The Chairman said that all of the member governments would be delighted to welcome Colombia into the Commission, but indicated that there were required certain formal procedures; these were explained.

It then being 12.30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned until 2:00 p.m.

Presentation and discussion of current research results

When the meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m., the Chairman requested the Director of Investigations to review the status of the research program. Dr. Schaefer discussed the results of the researches completed to date, and the progress being made along the several lines of investigation. These were illustrated by a number of charts and graphs.

A number of questions were asked by the Commissioners and Observers on various details of the researches. These were duly discussed.

Scholarship for students from member countries to study oceanography and marine biology in the United States

Pursuant to a resolution of the last annual meeting, the Director of Investigations had prepared a memorandum on existing sources for such scholarships, and on the prospective availability of qualified candidates for study of oceanography and marine biology in the United States. From this, and from the comments of the delegates from Costa Rica and Panama, it appeared that there are not a large number of qualified persons interested in such opportunities. It further appeared that there exist several possible sources of scholarships, although it is not certain that they can be obtained for this purpose.

It was believed by some of the Commissioners that it would not be wise to attempt to obtain appropriations for such scholarships through the Commission until the possibilities of obtaining them from existing sources had been given a thorough trial, because of the possible adverse reaction of the U.S. Congress. It was agreed that the Commission should use its influence to assist any interested, qualified candidates from the member countries to obtain scholarships from existing sources, and that the whole matter should be reevaluated at a later date on the basis of experience with this procedure.

On the basis of this discussion, the resolution of the 1956 meeting on this subject was withdrawn for the time being.

Employee retirement plan

At the last annual meeting, the Director of Investigations had been author-

ized to work with officials of the U.S. State Department on the details of an employee retirement plan, to be submitted in writing to the Commissioners, for their consideration.

The details of the plan had been worked out and had been submitted to the Commissioners on 4 March 1957. The plan involves deductions from the employees salaries of 3% of the salary for the part already taxed for Social Security and 6% of salary for salary not taxed for Social Security. Cost to the Commission will depend upon the age-composition of the staff, and is estimated at approximately \$9,800 for fiscal year 1957-58 and \$10,000 for fiscal year 1958-59. Benefits to employees, supplementing Social Security benefits, provide total benefits roughly comparable to those of the U.S. Civil Service.

After some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: The Commission approves the employee retirement plan prepared by the U.S. State Department and forwarded by the Director of Investigations under his memorandum of 4 March 1957; there is authorized to be included in the recommended budget for joint expenses of the Commission the amount of \$10,000 for this purpose for fiscal year 1958-59, this amount being in addition to the amount of \$352,725 previously adopted for the joint expenses of the research program.

Election of Officers for the next year

Sr. Lic. José L. Cardona-Cooper, of Costa Rica, was nominated as Chairman of the Commission for the ensuing year. This nomination was seconded and he was unanimously elected.

Mr. Gordon W. Sloan, of the United States, was nominated as Secretary of the Commission for the ensuing year. This nomination was seconded and he was unanimously elected.

Place and time of the next annual meeting

It was indicated that, in accordance with the custom of holding the annual meetings of the Commission in turn in each member country, it would, with the present membership, be the turn of Panama. However, should other countries adhere to the Convention before the next meeting, it would probably be desirable to hold the meeting in one of them.

After some discussion, it was decided that it would be best to set the meeting site in Panama, with the understanding that it could be changed later, by correspondence among the Commissioners, if desirable.

Due to climatological considerations, and the convenience of some of the Commissioners, it was thought that mid February would be most convenient as a meeting date.

It was, therefore, moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: The next annual meeting will be held in Panama City on the second Tuesday in February 1958.

There being no further business to come before the open session of the Commission, it was adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

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Minutes of the Executive Session

Immediately following the open session, the Commission convened an executive session to consider the matter of a promotion and salary increase for the Director of Investigations.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted that: The salary of Dr. M. B. Schaefer, as Director of Investigations, should be increased from \$11,935 per annum, by the amount of \$2,000, to \$13,935 per annum commencing 1 April 1957.